

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action mailed December 18, 2010. Claims 1-3, 6-11 and 14-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,937,813 to Schenk. Claims 7, 8, 15, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for insufficient antecedent basis. The Examiner did indicate, however, that claims 4, 5, 12 and 13 were directed to patentable subject matter if re-written in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to these claims. Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 13, and 15 have been amended. Claims 4, 12, and 17-39 have been canceled. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in complete condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application in this regard.

Rejections under 35 USC § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 7, 8, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claims 7 and 15 to recite "a high-pass filter circuit" and "a low-pass filter circuit" to overcome the lack of antecedent basis. Applicant has not, however, amended claims 8 and 16. Both these claims recite "a multiline communications system," then subsequently recite "the multiline communications system." Applicant therefore respectfully submits that there is no insufficient antecedent basis in claims 8 and 16. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 7, 8, 15 and 16 be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 4, independent claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 12, and claims 17-39 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 4 and 12 have been canceled, and claims 5 and 13 amended, for consistency with the amendments to claims 1 and 9. As all pending claims now recite subject matter previously found allowable by the Examiner. Applicant submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

Applicant has made a bona fide effort to respond to each and every requirement set forth in the Office Action. In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and remarks given herein, Applicant respectfully believes this case is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes any detailed language of the claims requires further discussion, the Examiner is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved. The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Applicant is of the opinion that no additional fee is due as a result of this Amendment. Payment of all charges due for this filing is made on the attached Electronic Fee Sheet. If any additional charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

March 12, 2010
Date

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